

DRAWINGS

Formal Drawings

Formal drawings were filed with the application on 3/29/2004. A review of the Office Action has failed to uncover whether the drawings were accepted by the Official Draftsman or whether a Form 948 rejection was issued by the Official Draftsman. An indication of the status of the drawings is respectfully requested with the next communication from the Patent Office.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status

Claims 2 through 4 have been cancelled by the present amendment and claims 21 through 25 have been added. Independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 21 with attendant claims depending therefrom will remain for further consideration.

More Clearly Defined

The claims in this application have been revised to voluntarily further clarify Applicant's unique invention. Applicant maintains that the claims as filed were patentable over the art of record. However, to expedite issuance of this application, reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and for the following reasons is respectfully requested.

Claim History

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sweatte.

Claims Allowed

The indication by the Examiner in the recent Office Action that claims 6-19 were allowable over the prior art of record is noted with appreciation.

Allowable Subject Matter, Otherwise Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Claims 1 has been so rewritten. The indication of this allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, [first] second paragraph, as being indefinite. The amendment to claim 5 should obviate this ground of rejection. The limitations of claim 1 have also been incorporated into claim 5, as no other grounds for rejection appears to claim 5, this claim should be allowable over the art of record.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sweatte. The cancellation of claims 2-4 should obviate this rejection.

New claims

Claims 21-25 have been added. Independent claim 21 recites the steps of: screening potential visitors, validating the identity of the user, retrieving additional secondary information pertaining to the user maintained in a database, determining whether to grant entrance of the user to the zone, verifying user supplied information regarding purposes for the user entering the zone, and selectively allowing the user to

enter the zone if the user passes the above steps. None of the references show these features. Claim 22 further recites a supervisory computer that also compares documentation and can prevent allowance of the user into the zone if the computerized match fails. The Sweatte reference only shows tracking individuals in a zone, not the prevention of the user from entering the zone based on various documentation and validation. The Sweatte reference does not require that the identification on the user be matched to the user, including retrieving additional information about the user. Sweatte also does not show verify the user's reasons for entering the zone as required by the claims. For at least these reasons, the claims 21-25 should be allowed over the art of record.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary

Applicants have made a diligent and bona fide effort to answer each and every ground for rejection or objection to the specification including the claims and to place the application in condition for final disposition. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested, and for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition to be passed to issue and such action is earnestly solicited. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Robert N. Blackmon, Applicants' Attorney at 703-684-5633 to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

OR

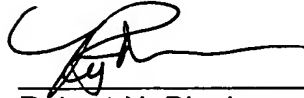
Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition to be passed to issue. If such is not the case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number given below in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Applicants have made a diligent and bona fide effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Robert N. Blackmon, Applicants' Attorney at 703-684-5633 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Dated: September 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Blackmon', written over a horizontal line.

Robert N. Blackmon

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